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Identical letters dated 27 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

With regard to the implementation of the humanitarian convoy plan to unstable areas, from April to July 2017, and in order to clarify the facts and to indicate the inaccuracy of the information provided by some United Nations agencies operating in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to clarify the following regarding assistance convoys deployed since the beginning of 2017.

- According to statistics prepared by national partners, 45 aid convoys were deployed to the following areas:

  Mu'addamiyah (7 January 2017), eastern Mu'addamiyah (8 January), Tall (11 January), Dumayr (25 January), Talbisah and Rastan (5 February), Afrin (13 February), Ruhaybah (15 February), Dumayr (2 March), Rawdah and Zabadani (6 March), Duma and surrounding towns (9 March), Sanamayn and Dayr al-Bukht and Mutaybin (14 March), Fu'ah and Kafraya (14 March), Madaya and Zabadani (14 March), Wadi Barada (24 March), Talbisah (28 March), Bludan (28 March), Rastan (30 March), Khan al-Shih (30 March), Yalda and Babila and Bayt Saham (8 April), Hulah (13 April), Harbinafsih and Aqarib and Tallaf and Khirbat al-Jami' (13 April), Tall Rif'at and Raju and Afrin and Kafr Jannah and Yakhur (14 April), Madaya and Buqayn (19 April), Dar al-Kabirah and Ghantu and Tayr Ma'lah (20 April), Yarmouk Camp (23 April), Duma and surrounding towns (2 May), Wadi Barada, Barhala, Kafr al-Awamid, Suq Wadi Barada, Afrah, Dayr Muqrin, Dayr Qanun, Ayn al-Fijah, Hasaniyah, and Kufayr al-Zayt (6 May), Kanakir (10 May) Qabun (16 May), Dumayr (20 May), Rastan (22 May), Jayrud, Nasiriyah and Atanah (22 May), Hulah (23 May), Dar al-Kabirah and Ghantu and Tayr Ma'lah (24 May), Qal'at al-Madiq (25 May), Kafr Zayta (25 May), Ruhaybah (3 June), Tall Rif'at and Raju and Afrin and Kafr Jannah and Yakhur (5 June), Barzah (9 June), Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr (15 June), eastern Harasta (19 June), Qabun (20 June), Rastan and surrounding areas (22 June).

We would like to mention that the convoy deployed to Wa'r on 2 February was not delivered owing to the security situation in the area. In addition, on 19 June, a convoy to eastern Harasta was attacked by members of terrorist organizations and one of the drivers was injured by a sniper.

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- In implementing the plan for April and May, 16 convoys were deployed as follows:

  – Nine joint assistance convoys (United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross and Syrian Arab Red Crescent) were dispatched to Zabadani and Madaya, Duma and surrounding towns, eastern Harasta, Mudayra and Misraba (carried out on 19 Jun), Wadi Barada and its vicinity, Jayrud, Nasiriyah, Atanah, Harbinafsih, Aqarib, Tallaf, Khirbat al-Jami', Hulah, Taldu, Kafr Laha, Dar al-Kabirah, Ghantu, Tayr Ma'lah, Rastan and surrounding towns (vaccines only).

  – A joint United Nations-United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East convoy was dispatched to Yalda and Babila and Bayt Saham on 8 April.

  – Six Red Cross convoys were deployed to Ruhaybah, Kanakir, Dumayr, Kafr Zayta, Qal'at al-Madiq, Afrin and Tall Rif'at.

- In implementing the plan for June and July, as at 27 June 2017, four joint United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoys were dispatched as follows:

  – An assistance convoy was dispatched to Barzah on 9 June, and another to Qabun on 20 June by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Convoys were also dispatched to Talbisah and the 6 towns connected to it on 15 June, the Tulul al-Humr area and the 14 towns connected to it on 15 June, and Rastan and the 9 towns connected to it on 22 June.

Over the past few months, the delivery of air aid to Dayr al-Zawr has continued with the full support of and facilitation by the Syrian Government. More than 6,345 tons of food has been sent by partners, in addition to medicine, medical supplies and other materials.

The monthly reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to the humanitarian situation continue to ignore mentioning the convoys deployed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, which leads to the provision of false and incorrect figures on the reality of the implementation of the convoy plans and the number of persons in need. The authors of these reports, in particular representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, also ignore the difficulties caused by the security situation, the practices of terrorist organizations and some logistical difficulties, including the small number of trucks and the lack of fuel in some provinces, especially in winter, which all prevent the full implementation of convoy plans.

It is important to note that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs did not deploy convoys into many areas that are in great need of assistance and support. Meanwhile, the Office is deliberately focusing on specific areas where armed terrorist groups exist and operate and neglecting areas where these terrorist groups are not present.

On 6 June 2017, the Syrian Government informed the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria and the Director of the World Food Programme office of its approval of the request to transfer humanitarian assistance by land from Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs and Aleppo to Hasakah and Qamishli.

The Syrian Government made it clear that this approval would allow the United Nations and its specialized agencies to use the agreed land route to ensure more assistance delivery and reduce air transport cost. The United Nations agencies and the World Food Programme started by operating small convoys (of three trucks)

as an experimental phase, to explore the road and the security and safety conditions. The number of convoys and trucks have since gradually increased.

The so-called "international donors conferences" have become mere propagandist and promotion shows for some Governments, where only 21 per cent of the pledges have been fulfilled, which proves that some of these Governments are only interested in imposing dangerous policies and agendas that exploit the human suffering of the Syrian people.

I should be grateful if the present letter were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Louay **Falouh**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.